

NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF FIRE CONTROL  
MEETING, September 17, 2014  
9:30 AM  
FIRE ACADEMY  
98 SMOKEY BEAR BLVD, Room 4  
CONCORD, NH

Attendees: J. William Degnan, Norman Skantze, Richard Heath, John Ela, Martin Michaelis, Dan Andrus, William Mead, Brian Boudreau and Steven Freitas.

Absent: Floyd Hayes and Allan Clark

Meeting Called to Order at 9:41 am by Richard Heath.

Minutes from June 18, 2014 meeting were not available for review and all agreed to review them at the next meeting tentatively scheduled for December 17, 2014.

**Report of State Fire Marshal**

Bill Degnan referred to the statistics of the activities in the Fire Marshal's office during the 2014 year. He indicated that the tramway and amusement ride section was not represented and he would like to see what their statistics are in the future. They will be added to this report from this date forward.

The city of Berlin had a drug lab this summer which resulted in many arrests. This was a very hazardous situation and was handled well without incident.

The director gave an example of a drug lab in Franklin several years ago which became a fire event due to the actions of the occupants of the building. Contaminates from the lab became airborne which increased safety concerns within the area.

The amusement ride division has had a busy season with fairs and zip line inspections and proposing adding zip line inspections to the rule making process.

The Tramway division has inspected some of the refurbished ski lifts as well as some of the new lifts that have been installed at ski areas across the state.

In September there were two arson arrests made and there seems to be an increase of arson fires throughout the state.

Concord had a life safety event which included closing a large building which housed businesses and citizens living in deplorable conditions. This building was bought by a new owner and he wanted to bring the building up to code since it was missing smoke alarms as well as a damaged sprinkler system. The building had many fire safety code violations.

The Fire Marshal's office assisted in helping the city leaders as well as the fire department to ensure that the people knew of the existing problems and the need to leave and find places to live through the city's organizations. This event did make the local and other newspapers but it was handled very diplomatically and Dan Andrus took the time to explain to the board how helpful the Fire Marshal's office was with their support during this trying time.

The Fire Marshal discussed the study done on increase of cancer within the firefighting community. The Workman's Comp law would like specific information on where a fire fighter has been regarding exposure to carcinogens known to cause cancer. This is a difficult task since every fire is different and results are not always known at each fire. It has been confirmed that across the country there is a higher incident of cancer found among fire fighters.

One way to decrease the chances of getting cancer is to have classes on how to clean gear and hose down everything before putting equipment away.

NASCAR races are this week. This office is concentrating on propane tank usage and how they are stored after a race. After July's race, many of the propane suppliers left the tanks until the next race in September. They were left unattended during other events held at the track. The Fire Marshal wants to notify each supplier that if the tanks are there for more than 36 hours they will be stored by the track and assessed a storage fee.

The Highland games are coming up in Lincoln. There was an issue this summer with an unsafe bridge at Loon Mountain that the Lincoln fire chief asked the owners to make changes to in order to ensure safety for the public attending this and other future events. The only traffic allowed on this bridge will be auto/small

truck vehicles. The owners will be putting in a permanent bridge to replace this current one in the near future.

The Pub Ed equipment is being well used. There are two trailers that are requested by fire departments in the state. They are the sprinkler trailer and the ICP/Command trailer. The sprinkler trailer shows how the sprinkler system works when there is a fire. (They use a T-shirt for the fire demonstration). It also has a large TV that faces outside so instructional videos can be shown to a larger crowd.

The ICP/Command trailer has many uses. It contains a kitchen area to teach safety in the kitchen. It has a phone for children to practice dialing 911. There is a door that gets warm to simulate what a door with a fire behind it would feel like. There is also a window in the rear of the trailer to show children how to exit through the window using a rope ladder.

The Fire Marshal's office is working on an NFIRS reporting system called TEMSIS which is being used by the Fire Academy and will help fire departments send in real time incident reports. This will bring accuracy and quick results in searching for specific items for research purposes. This office is seeking grant funding to make this happen across the state.

There are training programs now available for Fire Works program and for Heating Systems. Information for these were included in each board members packet. School Inspection training is also available and for any continuing education programs please call this office and someone will be able to assist with requests.

The windmill problems seem to be coming to a close. The Groton wind farm is now in compliance and corrections made on the maintenance building as well. There are windmills being proposed for Berlin but these are different from the Groton windmills. They are using a different type of generator. The Fire Marshal's office is assisting Berlin with any questions they may have.

There are many windmills located across the country. Other states have concerns same as New Hampshire and are dealing with their concerns on a one on one basis. In the Midwest the plains are dotted with windmills but they are not concerned with forest fires since they do not have forests to deal with. Their area is mostly flat covered with grasses. The area is not heavily populated with homes in isolated areas like we have here in New Hampshire. The Fire Marshal is taking a stand on fire safety not how the public feels about the windmills in their back yard.

The subject of 10 year smoke detector batteries were brought up. There are no safety concerns at this time.

The Fallen Firefighters Memorial program will be held on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> this year. If anyone gets the chance to visit Emmetsburg, Maryland for the ceremony held there, it is well worth it.

## **Old Business**

NASFM activity – CO detection in the workplace. OSHA does not have any way to develop materials for the public due to lack of manpower.

CSST Tubing Awareness – the public is being notified to have these checked for correct installations in their homes. Unitil Electric Company sends flyers out to their customers on what to look for and how to get them changed out if needed. Compared to other states New Hampshire has been successful in getting the word out to all citizens.

Bill Degnan announced that he completed his two year term as NASFM president. He said it went by very fast.

Propane Odorant – There is a big push to get this better regulated and code changes to include testing for odorant in propane specially delivery of propane fuel.

State Fire Code – There are no major changes in the proposed 2012 codes. Director Degnan hopes to have the proposed 2015 edition of the state fire code available for the board members to review by October 1, 2014. The goal is to have them reviewed and adopted by the end of 2014. He stated that the wording looks good and the changes should be accepted by the legislation without any problems.

The building code energy requirements could be delayed for the 2015 version. Any revisions made for 2012 can be attached as ammendments to the 2015 edition and would be included with the passing of the 2015 edition.

It was suggested that the board meet sooner than the next proposed board meeting in December in order to discuss the proposed 2015 edition by the end of the year. The Fire Marshal will check on the deadline for the proposed 2015 changes for State Fire Code and board members will then decide if it is necessary to meet sometime in November. If this is the case, the meeting held in November would cancel the previously scheduled meeting in December.

NFPA 400 – When will this section become available to the public? This part of the NFPA is broken down specifically to include many Hazmat events and is encouraging since there have been no changes in the past 15 to 20 years. The Fire Marshal has seen an increase of awareness in the Hazmat area and this is a good thing.

## **New Business**

Public fireworks have continued to be a hot topic. There have been many injuries this year which involved mostly reloadable shells. Alcohol consumption has been a factor in many of the injury reports and continue to be a concern to the State Fire Marshal. The Fire Marshal would like to see this type of firework banned statewide and has voiced his concerns via newspaper articles and even a local TV show.

Nationally there have been deaths reported from misuse of fireworks but in New Hampshire there have been no deaths reported.

The town of Swanzey has a permit program for fireworks in their town but they are frustrated that surrounding towns do not have the same regulations and it becomes a challenge for the law enforcement to continue to monitor who does or does not have a permit for fireworks.

It would be difficult for the state to mandate permits in each of the towns since the fireworks companies have many stores dotted across the state. They have a lot of money and power to back their point of view that residents of the state should have access to fireworks legally. The Fire Marshal will continue to fight for the safety of NH residents.

It was proposed by Dan Andrus to adjourn the meeting.  
It was seconded by Norm Skantze.  
All approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am.